



For Immediate Release

Underwriting Partner & Match Donor



**Hunger Free Summer Campaign Provides
2,000,000 Meals to Hungry Children**

Generous Corporate and Community Support Provides Food for Southeast Michigan Children

(September 14, 2012 – Detroit, MI) ... The results of the Hunger Free Summer campaign are complete. Campaign partners - **Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Gleaners), Charter One Foundation**, Ford Motor Company Fund, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the Joshua (Jim) and Eunice Stone Foundation, Epoch Hospitality Group, David and Cherie A. Bazy (on behalf of the Bazy Family) and American Specialty Oils - report raising over \$700,000, surpassing their goal of providing two million more meals to hungry children in southeast Michigan, in addition to meals Gleaners provides through other outreach programs.

“I’m overwhelmed with how strongly our community responded to help children in need this summer,” said W. DeWayne Wells, president of Gleaners. “Raising two million meals is no small effort. But, together, we did it, and thousands of children benefited as a result. I’m truly grateful to Charter One for their leadership and for everyone’s support.”

More than 315,000 children in southeast Michigan receive free or reduced-fee meals during the school year. During the summer months, these children are at risk of missing meals. One in four Michigan children live in poverty, a problem closely linked to hunger.

For the second year, the Hunger Free Summer campaign worked with companies and communities throughout southeast Michigan to help alleviate childhood hunger. During the ten-week Hunger Free Summer campaign, Gleaners provided two million meals to children and their families through their Summer Lunch Food Service, BackPack and school-based mobile pantry programs, as well as through their extensive network of over 600 partner soup kitchens, pantries and shelters.

“The Charter One Foundation is committed to supporting initiatives in the communities where we live and work. We understand that hunger hurts everyone in southeast Michigan, that’s why we’ve been working with Gleaners for the past six years to address this critical issue,” said Scott C. Swanson, president of Charter One and RBS Citizens for Illinois and Michigan. “When our children and families are fed, they are able to have energy to grow, learn and thrive for themselves and a stronger Michigan.”

Donations were matched dollar-for-dollar by: Charter One Foundation, Ford Motor Company Fund, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the Joshua (Jim) and Eunice Stone Foundation, Epoch Hospitality Group, David and Cherie A. Bazy (on behalf of the Bazy Family) and American Specialty Oils. **Every \$1 donation provided six nutritious lunches for hungry children in southeast Michigan.**

Media Only: For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Marcy Hayes/C&B Scene (Gleaners): 248.336.8360 or Elizabeth Dryden/Charter One Foundation: 248.226.7750.